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Urban District of Brixham



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

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1945





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# Urban District of Brixham



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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
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SANITARY INSPECTOR

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**1945**

# Urban District of Brixham

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Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR J. PENNY, J.P.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :**

Chairman : COUNCILLOR C. WIDDICOMBE.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

## **HOUSING COMMITTEE :**

Chairman : COUNCILLOR C. M. ASHFORD.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council :

SANDERS LEAR

---

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :**

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for  
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and  
Port Medical Officer :

††ANDREW DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health  
and Port Medical Officer :

\*†J. I. SNODGRASS, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods,  
Port Health Inspector, Housing Officer, and  
Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts :

††FRANCIS LAWRENCE GODFREY,  
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

\*

Part time.

† Whole time.

† Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

# Urban District of Brixham

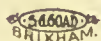


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# REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

### THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

FOR 1945.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for year 1945.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, emphasis continues to be placed upon the importance of Water Supply : the supply continues to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Terminal chlorination requires to be maintained, although not to a high initial dosage. Bacteriological examination, both of raw water, and after treatment (chlorination) are made quarterly.

#### BIRTH RATE.

With the return of so many evacuated families and refugees, the number of births (124) has returned to near the pre-war figure, the rate however (14.60 per 1,000 population) being an increase on pre-war years.

#### DEATH RATE.

This is again unstandardised, but 14.48 per 1,000 population is lower than last year (17.10).

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Seventy-eight children aged 1 to 5 years, and fifty-two children aged 5 to 15 years were fully protected.

The Immunising Agent used in all cases was Alum Precipitated Toxin in two doses of 0.4 cc and 0.5 cc.

My sincere thanks are again due to Health Visitor, Miss Lee, for her able help in this work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant.

A. DICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

---

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	...	5,626 acres
Population, 1931 Census	...	...	...	8,147
Population, estimated 1945	...	...	...	8,497
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1945 (approx.)				2,618
Rateable Value of District at April 1st, 1945—				
Inside Harbour Area	...	...	...	£47,174
Outside     ,,     ,,	...	...	...	£3,477
			Total	£50,651



## VITAL STATISTICS, 1945.

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### LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	51	58	109
Illegitimate	8	7	15

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59	65	124
----	----	-----

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Rate per 1,000 of the  
estimated resident  
population ... 14.60

### STILL BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	5	3	8

Rate per 1,000, total  
live and still births  
... .. 60.60

### DEATHS.

Male	Female	Total	
72	51	123	} Death rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ... 14.48

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate ...	5	—	5	} Rate per 1,000 of the live & still births, 45.45
Illegitimate	1	—	1	

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	—	} Rate per 1,000 live and still births 00.00
Other Puerperal Causes		—	

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## RAINFALL, 1945

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The rainfall, registered at Combe Bank, by Sir H. Clayton, Brixham, for 1945, was as follows: January, 2.85 inches; February, 3.08; March, 1.37; April, .77; May, 4.54; June, 3.32; July 1.96; August, 3.35; September, 3.63; October, 5.39; November, 1.24; December, 6.62; total of 38.12 inches. The average for the last 10 years is 40.80.

By courtesy of Sir Harold Clayton.

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1945 (As supplied by Registrar General)

Disease				Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...					
Measles	...	...	...			
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...			
Whooping Cough	...	...	...			
Diphtheria	...	...	...			
Influenza	...	...	...			
Encephalitis	...	...	...			
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...			
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...			4	2	6
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...			
Syphilis	...	...	...			
Cancer	...	...	...	14	8	22
Diabetes	...	...	...		2	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	14	9	23
Heart Disease	...	...	...	11	9	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	2	7	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	1	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2		2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...			
Ulcer (Gastric and Duodenal)	...	...	...	1		1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2		2
Appendicitis	...	...	...			
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1		1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	2	5	7
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...			
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...			
Congenital debility, Premature birth, etc.				3	1	4
Senility	...	...	...			
Suicide	...	...	...			
Other Violence	...	...	...	2		2
All Other Causes	...	...	...	9	7	16
Diarrhœa (over 2 years)	...	...	...			
Smallpox	...	...	...			
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...			
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...			
Total All Causes				72	51	123

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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Typhoid	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	..	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	0
				<hr/>
Total				11

---

Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital, Kings Ash,  
Paignton, from Brixham Urban District, during 1945,  
8 (all Devon Residents).

Disease			Number of Cases
Scarlet Fever	...	...	7
Tonsillitis	...	...	1

---

Cases admitted to "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation  
Hospital, Paignton, from Brixham Urban District,  
during 1945, 1.

Disease					Number of Cases
Measles	...	...	...	...	1
Scabies, etc.	...	...	...	...	8

The Auxiliary Isolation Hospital was closed  
on 31st October.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5								
15	1			1				
25	3	3						
35	2				1	1		
45	2							
55	1		1		2			
65 and upward					1	1		
Totals	9	3	1	1	4	2		

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ending 31st December, 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Twentieth Annual Report,  
as required by the Ministry of Health.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Sanitary Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat and Foods.

### HOUSING, 1945.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including number given separate under "b") :			
I.	By Local Authority	...	0
II.	By other Local Authorities	...	0
III.	By other bodies or persons	...	0
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :			
I.	By the Local Authority	...	0
	(a) For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act, 1925	...	0
	(b) For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act, 1925	...	0
	(c) For other purposes	...	0
II.	By other bodies	...	0

### HOUSING STATISTICS, 1945.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—
  - 1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for  
housing defects (under Public Health or  
Housing Acts) ... .. 98

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	117
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head 1 above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932) ... ..	56
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	92
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	43
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	27
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	16
2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	19
2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	19
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |   |   |     |     |   |
|---|---|-----|-----|---|
| 1 | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | 0 |
| 2 | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders    | ... | ... | 0 |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |   |   |     |     |     |     |   |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 1 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| 2 | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV (Overcrowding).

- |     |   |     |     |     |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) | 1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
|     | 2. Number of Families dwelling therein  | ... |     |     |     | 0 |
|     | 3. Number of Persons dwelling therein   | ... |     |     |     | 0 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (c) | 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
|     | 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases  |     |     |     |     | 0 |
| (d) | Particulars of cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. |     |     |     |     | 0 |
| (e) | Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider desirable to report.                  |     |     |     |     | 0 |

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

*and Work of the Public Health Department,  
1945.*

## HOUSING.

Number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1945 :—

Detached Houses	...	...	...	...	0
Terrace Houses	...	...	...	...	0
Bungalows	...	...	...	...	0

Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1945	...	...	...	...	0
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Public Buildings, Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	0
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of houses built during the year for working classes :—

By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	0
By Private Effort	...	...	...	...	0

Number of new houses or flats required for working class . . . . . 200

Houses inspected . . . . . 98

Cases of overcrowding abated . . . . . 0

Defective houses repaired . . . . . 62

„ floors repaired . . . . . 4

„ roofs repaired or renewed . . . . . 35

„ yards paved . . . . . 0

„ external plastering repaired . . . . . 9

„ internal plastering repaired . . . . . 15

„ windows repaired . . . . . 12

„ stoves repaired . . . . . 3

„ coppers repaired . . . . . 0

Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 :

During year	...	...	...	...	0
Total to date	...	...	...	...	23



## DRAINS AND DRAINAGE.

Sewers re-laid during the year :—Nil.

Drains examined	...	...	...	...	49
Defective drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	25
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of new buildings	...	...	...	...	0
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of existing buildings	...	...	...	...	13
Existing w.c.s fitted with flushing cisterns, or cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Defective traps removed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps	...	...	...	...	11
Defective w.c.s repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Automatic cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	1

The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year :—

New baths	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.s	...	...	...	...	4
Lavatory basins	...	...	...	...	7
Urinals	...	...	...	...	0
Scullery sinks	...	...	...	...	9
Interceptors	...	...	...	...	10
Septic tanks	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical closets	...	...	...	...	0

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	46
Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	1062
Articles of clothing and bedding destroyed	...	...	...	...	28
Rooms disinfected for notifiable infectious disease	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ verminous condition	...	...	...	...	37
Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals	...	...	...	...	12

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of cow-keepers and dairymen registered at end of year :—

Producer Wholesalers ... ..	6
Producer Wholesalers and Retailers ... ..	5
Producer Retailers ... ..	15
Retailers ... ..	8
Number removed from register ... ..	2
Number of cowsheds in district ... ..	24
"        "        without impervious floors ... ..	9
"        "        with unsatisfactory drainage ... ..	5
"        "        "        "        ventilation ... ..	5
"        "        "        "        lighting ... ..	3
"        "        "        "        water supply ... ..	2
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds, farms, etc. ... ..	26
Number of samples of milk taken for examination :—	
For cleanliness ... ..	9
For tuberculosis ... ..	3
For adulteration (taken by County Police) ... ..	22

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924)

Number of butchers' shops in the district ... ..	8
Other food shops and stores ... ..	70
Number of visits to butchers' shops ... ..	62
"        "        other food shops and stores ... ..	97

### Inspection of Meat and Foods.

Slaughtering in District (except for casuals) ceased January 1940, (M.O.F. Order). All meat is received from Paignton Depot.

#### WEIGHT OF UNFIT FOOD DESTROYED.

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total Lbs.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	
Beef ... ..			
Mutton ... ..		41	41
Pork ... ..			
Offals ... ..		15	15
Total		56	56

The following Foods have been surrendered as unsound :—

112 tins Pork Luncheon Meat ; 18 tins Sausage Meat ; 21 tins Pork and Beans ; 14 tins Stewing Steak ; 3 tins Meat Rations ; 25 tins Beans in Tomato ; 45 tins Peas ; 34 tins Pilchards ; 2 tins Salmon ; 2 tins Crayfish ; 66 tins Sardines ; 3 tins Mackerel ; 194 tins Unsweetened Milk ; 59 tins Sweetened Milk ; 21 tins Golden Syrup ; 7 tins Pears ; 2 tins Marmalade ; 249 Eggs ; 10 stone Dogfish ; 25 stone Headless Hake ; 112-lbs. Dates ; 267-lbs. Oranges ; 140-lbs. Course Cut Barley ; 40-lbs. Breakfast Oats ; 15-lbs. Sugar ; 6½-lbs. Bacon ; 34-lbs. Cheese ; 3-lbs. Butter ; 12-lbs. Jam ; 3-lbs. Chocolate.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Number of slaughter-houses in district :—

Registered	}	Not	...	...	...	...	3
Licensed	}	in use	...	...	...	...	1
Number of visits to slaughter-houses							0
Number of visits to premises where emergency or occasional slaughtering is carried out							2

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of noxious or offensive trades in district	...	0
---	-----	---

## NUISANCES.

Complaints of nuisances received	...	...	...	62
Informal notices served	...	...	...	4
Statutory notices served	..	...	...	1
Nuisances abated without written notice	...	...	...	37

## SCHOOLS.

Number of schools in district :—

Public	...	...	...	...	...	5
Private	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of schools found defective						0
„	„	notices to managers	...	...	...	0
„	„	visits to schools	...	...	...	9

## BAKEHOUSES.

Number of bakehouses in district	...	...	...	8
„ „ inspections	...	...	...	12
„ found defective	...	...	...	1
„ of notices to remedy	...	...	...	1

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901**  
**AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.  
 Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Number of factories and workshops registered in district 61

Premises. (1)		Number of		
		Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	20	5		
Factories without mechanical power	37	16		
* Other Premises under the Act (including works of building & engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	4	4		
Total		61	25	

\* Electrical stations should be reckoned as factories.

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	1	1		
Overcrowding (S. 2) ... ..				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ... ..				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ... ..				
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
Insufficient ... ..				
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1		
Not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences ... ..				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ... ..	2	2		

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- |     |     |   |       |
|-----|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | (a) | Number of Council houses found to be infested | 0     |
|     | "   | " " disinfected                               | ... 0 |
|     | (b) | Number of other houses found to be infested   | 7     |
|     | "   | " " disinfected                               | ... 7 |
- (2) Spraying with approved insecticide after removing wallpaper, skirting, etc.
- (3) No action is taken before the removal of tenant's belongings, except inspection by the Sanitary Inspector.
- (4) Work of disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.
- (5) Tenants are advised by the Sanitary Inspector as to measures to prevent re-infestation after cleansing.

## PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

---

 PARTICULARS OF REGISTRATION.

Number of Licenses granted to store Petroleum Spirit	16
" " " " Carbide of Calcium	1
" " " " Mixed Explosives	4
" " " " Gunpowder and	
Mixed Explosives in Magazines	2

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

---

 INFESTATION ORDER, 1944.

This Authority has entered into an agreement with Dartmouth Borough for their operative to carry out Rodent Control in Brixham on 3 days per week, and this is proving very satisfactory, and considerable progress has been made in treatment of properties in the district.

## PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.

---

### *Report for Year ending 31st December, 1945.*

---

Regular inspections are made of the local boats, also visiting ships are examined by the Customs, and inspected as a routine matter.

No action has been necessary in respect of infectious disease, and the facilities available for treatment, etc., are the same as outlined in my previous reports.

Foreign Fishing Boats now using the Port are visited at frequent intervals and conditions have been found generally satisfactory. Three boats have been treated for Bed Bug infestation.

---

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## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

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|-----|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | (a) | Number of Council houses found to be infested | 0     |
|     |     | "      "      "      disinfected              | ... 0 |
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